

Commissioner's Review 2010 FAQs

What is required for Commissioner's Review in 2010?

Secondary Regulations 2008 and guidance provide the requirements; the Commissioner's Review criteria and process documents provide the specific procedures and criteria for evaluating the level to which districts meet the Secondary Regulations 2008. Copies of the Regulations and Guidance and review documents can be found at www.ride.ri.gov.

Are districts expected to meet these requirements although they are facing economic/financial pressures?

Yes. The Board of Regents and RIDE are monitoring the current issues and working to ensure that the requirements are reasonable and appropriate yet still maintain the focus on ensuring all kids have access to fair, rigorous, and personalized learning environments.

What kinds of support will RIDE offer to Districts in the Commissioner's Review 2010 process?

RIDE will provide focused technical assistance when needed to support LEAs in completing the Commissioner's Review process. RIDE will continue to develop, collect, and disseminate models and resources to support implementation of the secondary regulations requirements.

What other resources could districts access besides what RIDE can offer directly?

RIDE will be working with statewide networks to promote a common understanding of secondary regulations thereby enhancing their ability to provide supports to LEAs. Networks include the Educational Collaboratives, RIMLE, RIASP, RISCA, Higher Education groups, and other professional organizations and educational partners.

LEAs are encouraged to form partnerships with other districts and seek other networking opportunities.

How can RIDE improve communication regarding the Commissioner's Review requirements and process?

RIDE will continue to share information with all LEA superintendents and both high school and middle level principals via email and by placing documents on the RIDE website. All supporting documents can be found on the RIDE Middle and High School Reform page on the left side in a folder labeled Commissioner's Review 2010.

How will communication between review teams and LEAs be coordinated?

A RIDE facilitator for each review team will be the contact person for the LEA and will provide specific information regarding the process; the RIDE contact will also coordinate the visits.

What specific evidence must be included with the electronic submission?

All LEAs are required to submit their ILP template. In response to the priority areas prompts/questions, LEAs should list the evidence that supports the narrative and that the review teams will require access to during site visits. Additionally, documents resulting from substantial changes in policy, process, and programs and/or addressing the outstanding 2008 issues must be included electronically.*

* It is suggested that evidence that is listed in the electronic submission be collected and organized in advance of the site visits (Fall09).

What is the purpose of reviewing an early submission district?

*The early review will provide valuable information for the full-scale Commissioner's Review process and solidify the review teams' protocol; in short, this exercise will help to calibrate the review process. The purpose **is not** to develop the benchmark against which LEAs' implementation of the Diploma System will be measured.*

What does it mean for an LEA to receive full approval for 2010?

It means that the LEA has met the criteria for 2010 full approval, indicating that the system has the programs and supports necessary to ensure that students graduate by proficiency. Fully approved LEAs will be granted approval to award Regents' Endorsed diplomas starting in 2010.

REMEMBER: *Districts that receive full approval in 2010 must continue the implementation of their Diploma System to meet the 2012 requirements.*

What happens to LEAs that DO NOT receive full approval for 2010?

LEAs will continue to implement their system in order to meet the criteria for 2010. Districts will receive support from RIDE and other sources to help them progress toward full approval. RIDE will schedule additional reviews as districts indicate their readiness.

When will districts be notified of approval status?

Districts will be notified within a month following the site visit but no later than January 4th, 2010.

Why is the 2010 review occurring in 2009?

Just as with the 2008 review, we need to carry out the reviews in the fall of the preceding year in order to grant approval for 2010. This schedule provides LEAs with their approval status in advance of graduation so that fully approved districts can prepare to grant Regents Endorsed Diplomas to the graduating class of 2010.

What are the requirements for the middle level in 2010?

According to the amended 2008 Regents Regulations and the RI Literacy Policy, middle level schools are expected to have an implemented literacy program, individual learning plans for all students, and common planning time focused on improving student learning and the development of an advisory program. Middle schools must also have plans for completing alignment to the reading, writing, oral communication, and mathematics GLEs across the curriculum.

Why are middle level schools being included in the electronic submission and site visits for the review process?

Middle schools will be allowed time to phase in the implementation of the 2008 Secondary Regulations. Inclusion of middle schools in the 2010 review is part of this process and will build understanding, expertise, and capacity.

How will middle level schools be supported in meeting the 2008 Secondary Regulations and subsequent Commissioner's Reviews?

RIDE will provide technical assistance and develop and disseminate resources to support middle level schools in this process. Members of the Secondary Redesign Office are also available to answer questions. Additionally, RIMLE and other similar organizations provide support, information and networks for middle level schools.